(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism does not undertake promotional activities aimed at promoting tourist traffic to other countries.

Development of Tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim

2981. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR :
SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assured financial and technical assistance for all round development of tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim besides North Eastern Region; if so, the details of the project;

(b) whether a similar action plan has been drawn for Orissa to boost its economy; and

(c) the details of ongoing new schemes and subsidy projects and also proposed ones to develop and promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Tourism Projects are identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and sanctioned on merits subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. Based on site inspections and consultations, it has been decided to take up the following works in Darjeeling area and Sikkim subject to availability of land.

Darjeeling Area

1. Improvement of tourist spots along Himalayan Railway route-Kurseong and Ghum.
2. Tourist Resort/Huts at Tiger Hill.
3. Tourist Loge at Kalimpong.

Sikkim

1. Development of Trekking Routes.
2. Institute of Adventure sports.
3. Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

(b) A project for development of Puri in Orissa as a destination with Central financial component of Rs. 394.55 lakhs has been sanctioned during the current financial year.

(c) The following schemes have been introduced during the 10th Plan for development of tourism in the country:-

1. Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.
2. Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.
3. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Bringing back Saraswati Idol

2982. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring back the Saraswati idol, taken away from the disputed Bhojshala/Kamal Moula Mosque by the British and is installed in the London Museum; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard to bring back the Idol and to restore it in the temple?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of External Affairs has been requested to make attempts to bring back the Idol through diplomatic channels.

Contribution by Raja Rammohun Roy foundation for opening of new libraries

2983. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of funds contributed by Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation for opening new libraries and refurbishing the existing libraries in the country;

(b) whether Government are satisfied that the Foundation has achieved the objective for what it was created; and

(c) whether it has been able to start library movement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) During the last 10 years an assistance of Rs. 72.01 crores has been given in refurbishing more than 30,000 existing libraries.